G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references 1918-19

191

File No. 134-18

Serial Nos. 455, 456

(P.P. 460, 464.

Later references.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 455, 456, 460, 464.

Part B for March 1919

SUBJECT.

Food Supply to Chamarajanagar Dy.

Sl. 464) To The Mysore Dist.

No. G 22068 of 29/3/19.

Sd/ 28/3/19

States that arrangement may be made to open at once a depot at Chamarajnagar for supply of Burma rice @ 6 seers per rupee & similar may be instructed to tender stocks for removal Depot to the villages referred in the Sl No. 460 & report the action taken in the matter in the next weekly report

W D 1250—GPB—30,000 28-1-19

1918.19

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

G.P)

NOTES.

File No. 134

FILE HEADING.

food supply arrangements

PRIVATE SECRETARY MYSORE

The Palace, Mysore,

25th March 1919.

My dear Sir,

I am directed to send you the enclosed letters from the Rev. Mr. Sawday for such action as you deem fit. I have told Mr. Sawday that his letter has been forwarded to you.

In this connection I may mention that I was talking over the season prospects with His Highness today and His Highness suggested that it might be a good thing if touring Officers of all Departments were asked to keep their eyes open while they are in Camp and to let you know of any symptoms of distress which they may notice. His Highness is merely making a suggestion with a view to helping you in dealing with a difficult situation.

Yours sincerely,

R Macdonald

A. R. Banerji, Esq., C.I.E.,

Bangalore.

Office of the Dewan of Mysore.

NOTE.

Dated 26th March *1919*.

The accompanying papers are forwarded to the Chief Secretary, with compliments.

The draft letter to the Rev. Mr Sawday and the draft circular to Head of Departments may issue to day.

To

The Revenue Commissioner

– Food Controller

– Dy Comr of Dvp

– Other Heads of Depts

No. G. 2605-65 of 26.3.19.

Desires in view of the unfavou
seasonal conditions prevailing in
State, that the touring officers of
Depts should watch the cond
the people in places visited by
and report to the Dy Comr of th
and the F.C any symptoms of
that come to their notice and in
cases arrest to Govt.

To

The Rev G. W. Sawday

Superintendent

Vedagere Mission

No G. 2669 of 26.3.19

Request to give a list
villages in Chamarajanagar
where distribution of grain by
Agency is urgently necessary

from Rev G. W. Sawday

Letter d. 27.3.1919.

G. R. S. III-2.

General and Revenue Secretariat.

P. F. File No. 134 of 1918-19

Serial No.

With reference to 456 - intimates the villages in the Channagiri Tk in which he is most familiar & states that what he stated applies generally to the villages generally.

Chief Secy's Orders -

"Please submit to Dewan with reference - the D.C. & S.D.O. might visit several villages & find out the exact state of affairs"

Dated C.S.B 28/3/19

Submitted with reference - the D.C. Mysore has already been asked in this office letter no G 21825 of 27.3.19 to personally investigate the disturbances said to be spreading in the Channagiri Tk & report the result in the next weekly report

28/3/19

Dewan) - Opinion may be called for the Deputy Commissioner, Tirthahalli (copy of Bangalore rec at 6 measures already taken by him) & he should be asked to send out bulletins to the villages concerned & report

28-3-19.

G. R. S. III-2.

General and Revenue Secretariat.

N.P. File No: 134 of 191 8-9

Serial No.

Despatched
by
29/3/19

Bsney Hm
29-3-19

To

The Dy Comr.
Mypne East

No. G 220 68 & 29.3.19

Stated that arrangements may be made to open at once a depot at Chennarayapatna for supply of Ambena rice at 6 seers per rupee and the Amildar may be instructed to send out Stocks from that depot to the villages referred to in Serial No 4 & 6 and report the action taken in the matter in the next weekly Report.

Office of the Director of Civil Supplies and Controller of Prices in Mysore.

Bangalore Dated, 21st March 1919.

'ear Mr. Sawday,

I am obliged to you for your letter of the 20th instant and have referred it to the Amildar of the Chamarajnaga taluk for immediate enquiry and report of the action to be taken. In the meantime, will you kindly let me know (as well as the Amildar) which exactly are the villages that you refer to?

There is no order of Government that ragi should sold at 10 seers a rupee. The fact is that such max rates cannot be enforced owing to the shortage of st With a view to allow stocks to come into the market, Government have removed restrictions as to prices. the poorer classes will find it difficult to buy rag at the prevailing high rates, we are doing everythin our power to give them Burma rice as a substitute.

Yours sincerely,

WESLEYAN MISSION,
MYSORE CIT

March 24th. 1919

Dear Mr. Campbell,

I hope you will not be frightened by the length o the enclosed letter. I felt I must write it to you and I know you will give it your most sympathetic consideration. It is written solely from affection for the poor people of the State and in the interests of the State which is really a part of my life.

I have now heard from the Deputy Commissioner. He sa "it is only in areas where grains are not available that Government proposes to interfere by importing foodstuffs and distribute them to people at cost price. The markets are left to regulate their pri according to the supply and demand. The grain stocked may not be available for immediate distribution". But the cost price of the grains may place them beyond the reach of the poor, or may make it impossible for them to maintain their families, and the grain is needed immediately and will be needed for several months. If in Eng

condition of the poor people in the villages. The condi-
in the large towns is bad enough but that in the villages
itely worse. I have just been out spending a week in the
of the Chamrajnagar Taluk. Prices have been steadily ris:
the people can scarcely get even five seers of ragi for
Grains are being brought out in such small quantities tha
they have the money the poorer classes cannot get the gra

I am sorry to say that while something is
for the people in the Cities very little is being done b
ment for such people as I think of. Some time ago an ord
fixing the price of ragi at 12 seers the rupee- then ano
was passed fixing it at 10 seers. The latter order appea
dead letter. The Food Controller says it was rescinded i
that supplies would come more freely into the markets. T
been proved to be vain for fewer supplies than ever seem
ing into the open market.

It seems to me that the state of the poor,
not being adequately realised. They are being very badly nourished
for how can they support their families with prices as they are. If
any bad sickness should break out I am sure the mortality will be
frightful, for they will not be able to resist it. The loss during
the influenza epidemic was very serious, but should there be a retu
of that epidemic or a bad outbreak of plague or cholera we shall, I
am convinced, see far worse things.

I speak as an outsider- as one who has no connection
with the Official life of the State- but as one who has an intense
affection for the poor people who suffer, often in silence. The
outcry is generally made by those who suffer far less and who gain
more by their complaints. I saw the people in the great famine of
77-79 when prices were far easier than they are today and I can nev
forget their terrible state when over a million died of hunger and
disease. Those who know most think that unless great care is taken
we may be on the verge of a famine which will bring to the State si
lar disaster and loss. It is surely better and easier for a State
to take steps to prevent such a calamity than it is to take measure
to recover when such a calamity has happened.

I can see all the difficulties connected with the
situation. I know that His Highness must be watching the course of
events with great anxiety. When you get an opportunity do, I pray
you, urge him to issue commands that the poor people of the villag
must be saved at all costs. At present it is not a case of relievi
them with doles of money, but of commandeering or importing grain
which shall be sold in all parts of the State- even the distant vi

In view of the unfavourable seasonal condition
ing in the State, Government desire that the touring
of all Departments should watch the condition of the
places visited by them and report to the Deputy Comm
and the Food Controller any symptoms of distress tha
to their notice. In serious cases a copy of the rep
submitted direct to Government.

By order

Chief Secretary to Go

The Revenue Commissioner.

The Food Controller,
The Dy Comr of Deths
Other Heads of Department

General & Revenue Secretariat

Bangalore, 26th March 1919.

With reference to your letter dated the 24th instant to Mr. Campbell, which has been forwarded to the Dewan, I am desired to say that Government will be oblige if you can kindly give a list of the villages in Chamaraj nagar Taluk where, according to your information, distribution of grain by GM agency is urgently necessary.

Yours sincerely,

26/3

Chief Secretary to Gove

26/3

The Rev. G.W.Sawday,

Superintendent,

Wesleyan Mission. Mysore City

Wesleyan Mission,

Mysore City, March 27th. 1919

DIARY NO. 1754

Dear Bowring,

Many thanks for your letter of yesterday's date, having reference to my letter to Mr. Campbell.

The villages in the Chamrajnagar Taluk with which I am most familiar are Kastur, Bhogapura, Kiraksuru, Maskapura, D. Raya Pett, Madigalli, Hosur (Mangala), Singonapura etc. But I believe that what I stated in my letter applies to the villages generally, while there are villages in the interior where the state of things is probably worse. The jholam crop was an absolute failure, and the ragi crop was very poor. The state of the large markets such as, say, Sante Maralli, is a fair indication of the state of the villages.

It may possibly be said that there are reserve stocks in the hands of a few big ryots in some of the villages but that, in my judgement, does not affect the question, as the grain is not available for the poorer classes.

I may say that nearly all my letters from the Taluks indicate that the same state of things prevails. One of the latest letters from Hosur, dated the 24th. inst, says that the price of ragi varies from R16 to R20 a palla, and that even at this price there is plenty of dirt in it!

I am glad to hear of the arrangements that are to be made for Mysore City and Bangalore. Cannot arrangements be made for the supply of grain at the same rates in the villages of the State? Even if this involves a loss to the Government of some lakhs of rupees, it will mean the saving of the lives of the people, and that alone will be a great gain to the State in years to come. If in consequence

distance and of the cost of carriage higher rates are to be
arged to the villagers, I believe disaster will follow, for ever
the rates now fixed the poorer classes will have the greatest
fficulty in feeding their families.

I should like to say that my letter to Mr. Campbell was
e outcome of my great interest in the poorer classes of ~~the~~ His
ghness the Maharaja's subjects, and of my inability to be silen
e sight of their suffering. I am sure the Dewan and the Governm
ll do all that lies in their power to relieve the distress of
e people at this critical time.

Believe me, Dear Sir,

Yours most faithfully,

George Bowen

C. S. Balasundaram Iyer, Esqr. B.A
Chief Secretary to Govt.

Diary No. of letter replied to.....

Section M.I.
File No.
Serial No. 1

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

No. G 22068

Date of issue 29.9.19

Signed by M. A. [illegible]

To The Dy Com^r Mysore

Sir,

In continuation of this office letter no G 21825 of 27th March 1919 regarding disputes in the Chamarajanagar Tk, I am directed to state that arrangements may be made to open a dispensary at Chamaraj-

for supply of Burma rice
at 6 seers per rupee - the necessary st
being sup
the Pro: Grain
Depot at Megne-
a drawn from the
Food Controller of
necessary

the limited Quantities to actual Consu

The Amildar may also
be instructed to send out
stocks from that Depot-
to the marginally noted
& other villages in that
Tk which are said to be
affected for sale at the same rate.

2. The action taken
may be reported to Govt
in ~~3 days~~ the next weekly report.

Have the

x Kastur
Bhogapura
Koia Kswra
Maskapura
D-Rayapet
Madigalli
Hosur (Man-
Singasapura Sala)

29-3-29

[illegible]

new - implements

List of enclosure

Copy to the Food Controller
for info.

~~Commissioner~~
~~The Cost of Paper used in this letter is Rs 0-1-0~~

[illegible]

Copied by

Examined

WD 86—GPB—60,000—15-11 16

Demi Official letter No. M. 17, dated Camp Mysore, the pril 1919, from the Food Controller and Director of Civil ies in Mysore, to the Dewan.

"In accordance with your instructions, I went to Chamarajanagar and visited five of the villages referred to by Mr. Sawday. There is nothing to cause special anxiety about these villages. The condition of the people here is very much the same as in other parts. The chief complaint is about the high price of ragi and it not being available in sufficiently large quantities. Ragi is available at Chamarajnagar, which is within a distance of 2 to 5 miles from the villages named, at 7 seers a rupee. The poor Christians and the Panchamas are most of them getting work in the locality, but some of them complained of the want of steady and regular employment. I have arranged with the Amildar for providing them with continuous employment on wages of not less than 4 annas a day. There are a few persons who are inform and quite destitute. I have asked the Amildar to arrange for some gratuitous relief being given to them. There is plenty of ragi available in Talwadi of the Coimbatore District some if it is coming over clandestinely. I have instructed the Amildar to arrange for the exchange of ragi for paddy. The deficiency of ragi has to be met by the sale of Burma rice. This will be sold to the poor at six seers a rupee. I have already requested the Deputy Commissioner to arrange for sending Burma rice from Mysore City to Chamarajnagar. This is being arranged for."

2. I was to have gone to the Kadur District to-day to discuss the food situation with the members of the North Mysore Planters Association. But they have requested me to defer my visit and as there are some important matters to which I have to obtain orders I am returning to Bangalore to-day.